

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend Claim 1 as follows.

1. (Currently Amended) A process cartridge detachably attachable to a main body of an electrophotographic image forming apparatus, comprising:

an electrophotographic photosensitive drum;

a first unit supporting said electrophotographic photosensitive drum;

a developing roller configured and positioned to develop, with a developer, an electrostatic latent image formed on said electrophotographic photosensitive drum;

a second unit supporting said developing roller and coupled to said first unit;

an optical path provided between said first unit and said second unit and configured and positioned to pass light emitted from the main body of the electrophotographic image forming apparatus in order to expose said electrophotographic photosensitive drum to the light;

a drum shutter movable between a protecting position for protecting said electrophotographic photosensitive drum and a retracting position retracted from the protecting position;

a supported portion provided in said drum shutter;

a supporting portion configured and positioned to support said supported portion in order to move said drum shutter between the protecting position and the retracting position, said supporting portion being positioned outside said optical path in a longitudinal direction of said electrophotographic photosensitive drum and being positioned between said first unit and said second unit when said process cartridge is viewed ~~from a direction~~ along the longitudinal direction of said electrophotographic photosensitive drum; and

an open portion provided in said supporting portion to mount said supported portion to said supporting portion, said open portion being arranged to pass through said supported portion under a condition that said drum shutter is positioned at a mount position deviated from and between said protecting position and said retracting position before coupling said first unit and said second unit, and

wherein when said first unit and said second unit are coupled, said drum shutter is movable between said protecting position and said retracting position and said drum shutter is restricted not to move to said mount position due to contact between said drum shutter and said second unit when said drum shutter is moving toward said mount position from between said protecting position and said retracting position.

2. (Previously Presented) The process cartridge according to claim 1, wherein said supporting portion is disposed inside both sides of said first unit in the longitudinal direction .

3. (Previously Presented) The process cartridge according to claim 1 or 2, wherein said first unit has:

an electrostatic charging roller configured and positioned to charge a surface of said electrophotographic photosensitive drum; and

an electrostatic charging roller supporting portion supporting said electrostatic charging roller, and

wherein said supporting portion is provided in a part of said electrostatic charging roller supporting portion.

4. (Previously Presented) The process cartridge according to claim 1, wherein said drum shutter has:

- a protecting portion protecting said electrophotographic photosensitive drum;
- supporting arm portions provided on both sides of said drum shutter in the longitudinal direction; and
- a coupling portion coupling said supporting arm portions.

5. (Previously Presented) An electrophotographic image forming apparatus for forming an image on a recording medium, comprising:

- (i) a optical light emitting portion;
- (ii) a mounting portion;
- (iii) a process cartridge mounted so as to be detachably attached to said mounting portion, said process cartridge comprising:
 - an electrophotographic photosensitive drum;
 - a first unit supporting said electrophotographic photosensitive drum;
 - a developing roller configured and positioned to develop, with a developer, an electrostatic latent image formed on said electrophotographic photosensitive drum;
 - a second unit supporting said developing roller and coupled to said first unit;
 - an optical path provided between said first unit and said second unit and configured and positioned to pass light emitted from said optical light emitting portion in order to expose said electrophotographic photosensitive drum to the light;

a drum shutter movable between a protecting position for protecting said electrophotographic photosensitive drum and a retracting position retracted from the protecting position;

a supported portion provided in said drum shutter;

a supporting portion configured and positioned to support said supported portion in order to move said drum shutter between the protecting position and the retracting position, said supporting portion being positioned outside said optical path in a longitudinal direction of said electrophotographic photosensitive drum and being positioned between said first unit and said second unit when viewed ~~from a direction~~ along the longitudinal direction of said electrophotographic photosensitive drum; and

an open portion provided in said supporting portion to mount said supported portion to said supporting portion, said open portion being arranged to pass through said supported portion under a condition that said drum shutter is positioned at a mount position deviated from and between said protecting position and said retracting position before coupling said first unit and said second unit, and

wherein when said first unit and said second unit are coupled, said drum shutter is movable between said protecting position and said retracting position and said drum shutter is restricted to not move to said mount position due to contact between said drum shutter and said second unit when said drum shutter is moving toward said mount position from between said protecting position and said retracting position; and

(iv) a conveying portion conveying the recording medium.

6 - 7 (Canceled)